



Rebuild Iowa Office

Governor Chester J. Culver
Lt. Governor Patty Judge
Lt Gen Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director

Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

10 AM – 12 PM

Iowa Department for the Blind, 524 4th Street, Des Moines, IA – Assembly Room

Attendees:

Jeneane Beck – Iowa Public Radio
John Benson - HSEMD
Joe Brandstatter - LSA
Mickey Carlson – Iowa League of Cities
Sue Danielson – WHO Radio
Jeremy Davis – Iowa College Student Aid
Jacqui DiGiacinto - RIO
Susan Dixon - HSEMD
David Doyle - EPA
Bill Ehm - DNR
Robert Grayson
Heather Harbarth - DOM
Jim Heckmann - SBDC
Rob Hogg – Iowa Legislator
Susan Judkins - RIO
Teresa Kehoe - IDED
Darrin Leach - USDA
Mary Beth Mallick
Annette Mansheim - RIO
Dave Miller - HSEMD
Joe Mowers - IWD
Joe O'Hern - IFA
Juli Probasco - RIO
Ron Randazzo - RIO
Gary Schwartz – Dept. of Education
Emily Shields - RIO
Jerry Skalak – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Julie Struck - RIO
Aaron Todd - RIO
Nicole Warren – Iowa Council of Governments

Welcome

Jacqui DiGiacinto provided a welcome and overview of the agenda to all attendees.

Federal Recovery Partner Reports

Darrin Leach – USDA Rural Development

Last year, USDA Rural Development hit the \$800 million mark in recovery funds. Since the summer of 2008 to two months ago, the agency invested \$241 million dollars into Iowa's recovery. Once a disaster declaration is made, the agency is able to tap into disaster funds and attempt to bring as much as possible into a disaster-impacted state. The agency does not expect to add additional funds to Iowa's disaster. Approximately \$35 million has been granted to businesses in terms of guaranteed loans; approximately \$1 million in grants has been provided to local communities to establish RLFs or Revolving Loan Funds; \$111 million in direct or guaranteed loans has been provided to 1,000 families; and \$200,000 has been provided in grants for home repairs in rural Iowa. The USDA Rural Development agency also has dedicated \$2 million to apartment complex repairs and \$83 million in loans to help improve community facilities in rural communities. Approximately \$6 million in grants and \$1 million in loans has assisted wastewater projects. Funds are now beginning to filter to other disaster-impacted states.

Jerry Skalak – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

There are four different core districts operating in Iowa. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been providing input and data to the Rebuild Iowa Office for its reports since 2008. The Corps is now working on major environmental restoration projects. After a disaster, the Corps provides major investments in response and recovery processes, assists area engineers and supports disaster teams, and provides sand bags, pumps, technical guidance, data and information. The Corps also has provided support and coordination with various interagency groups in Iowa.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety believes floodplain maps should be a priority, so requirements can be set for building in various areas. Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management is working with the Corps and FEMA to address this issue, but there is a congressional component which must take place at the national level before maps can become finalized.

Senator Rob Hogg said Iowa must avoid the state waiting for the federal government to solve the floodplain mapping problem. He said Iowans must put their own resources into it in order to protect themselves against future floods.

David Doyle – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has provided Iowa with technical assistance in the 2008 disaster recovery effort. The EPA's work in Iowa didn't start until 2009. The EPA worked with the Rebuild Iowa Office, FEMA and the Iowa Dept. of Economic Development to enhance community plans for six Iowa communities. The work is based on 10 Smart Planning Principles to create more mixed use retail and housing areas, a transit-friendly environment, more green space and water quality improvement. In Cedar Rapids, the EPA worked with planning staff to identify barriers in codes and policies to make room for more sustainable development. In Cedar Falls, the EPA made recommendations to zoning, codes and policies. In New Hartford, the EPA helped organize a two-day workshop to better manage storm water in the community. In Iowa

City, the EPA led a market analysis and transit study to enhance public transit options. In Coralville, the EPA assisted in creating development concepts to make links to older parts of town. In Waverly, the EPA held a design workshop to sketch out areas impacted by community functions and provided redevelopment concepts. All reports are accessible to communities and the public through the Rebuild Iowa Office's website.

Jim Heckmann - Iowa SBDC

The Iowa SBDC received additional funds to help staff business recovery centers and hire counselors to help businesses recover from the 2008 disasters. Several programs reimbursed for loss capital due to recovery purposes. The SBDC also counseled business to help fill out complicated applications. The SBDC called all the businesses they could reach, totaling more than 9,000 businesses around the state. At this time, the Cedar Rapids SBDC is working closely with AEGON to develop a business database. They will report back to the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce on the success of the system.

Iowa Disaster Recovery Framework

Annette Mansheim from the Rebuild Iowa Office provided a report on the Iowa Disaster Recovery Framework. She said long-term recovery had not been fully addressed. A model has been developed for what that may look like moving forward. The Iowa Disaster Recovery Framework includes several primary components, including an Office of Disaster Recovery Coordination, the Iowa Recovery Coordinating Council and Recovery Support Functions.

Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

Aaron Todd from the Rebuild Iowa Office reported on the Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations. Until the 2010 Iowa Legislative Session, Iowa was only a handful of states that did not have smart planning or a similar concept on its books. Thanks to the passage of the legislation, it now does. Most agencies have participated on the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force since June 2010. The Task Force finalized its recommendations to the Iowa Legislature on Nov. 10, 2010, outlining 16 total recommendations. In order to be eligible for Smart Planning funding through Community Development Block Grants, an entity has to include Smart Planning principles in its project. Sustainable community principles shall be considered during planning, zoning and resource management decisions.

Individual Case Management Framework

Julie Struck from the Rebuild Iowa Office provided a status report on the Individual Case Management Framework. Iowa House File 2422 created allowance for an individual disaster case management framework. An advisory committee has been created to address concerns and evaluate processes for further implementing individual long-term disaster recovery efforts in Iowa.

Business Disaster Case Management Task Force Recommendations

Jim Heckmann, chair of the Business Disaster Case Management Task Force, provided a report on the committee's recommendations. He said recovery has to start with planning before a disaster even occurs. The goal of the task force is to address how businesses impacted by the 2008 disasters get back on their feet as quickly as possible, while the task force and state looks for additional services from the federal government. One option to consider is a trust fund that

acts as an insurance pool, allowing for a distribution of funds that would not be counted as a duplication of benefits. These potential business funds could be quickly accessed with an immediate loss following a disaster.

Legislative Preview

Susan Judkin Josten from the Rebuild Iowa Office provided a legislative preview for the 2011 Legislative Session. There still remains a significant gap in recovery and recovery funds. She addressed the need to create a Disaster Recovery Fund, a State Public Assistance Fund and work with Local Emergency Management. The RIO has recently been working with the author of “A Watershed Year” to bring additional awareness to disaster recovery efforts and mitigation issues by hosting education forums around Iowa.

Transition Plan Review

Emily Shields from the Rebuild Iowa Office addressed transition plans for the RIO. The transition plan is not finalized at this time because the RIO wants federal and state agencies to provide input prior to its submittal to the Iowa Legislature on January 1, 2011. Feedback is welcomed and suggestions are encouraged.

Conclusion

The next Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meeting will take place April 26, 2011, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Iowa State Historical Building.